**Roanoke Valley Governor’s School Regional Board  
Minutes of June 11, 2018 Meeting**

The Roanoke Valley Governor’s School Regional Board met on Monday, June 11 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in the Roanoke Valley Governor’s School Lecture Hall. The following Board members were present:

Mr. Mark Cathey Roanoke City Chairman  
Mr. Jason Johnson Bedford County Vice Chairman  
Dr. Michael Chiglinsky Salem City  
Mrs. Michelle Crook Botetourt County   
Mr. Patrick Myers Craig County  
Mr. Mike Wray Roanoke County

Absent: Mrs. Julie Nix, Franklin County, due to Franklin County School Board Meeting.  
  
Also present were Dr. Rita Bishop, representing the Committee of Superintendents; Governor’s School Director, Mark Levy; Clerk, Cindy Poulton; Deputy Clerk, Paula Buch; Salem City Superintendent Dr. Alan Seibert; Dawn Verhoeff, Bedford County Schools’ Science, Foreign Language and Gifted Supervisor; and Roanoke City Public Schools’ Chief of Security Chris Perkins.

Call to Order

Mr. Cathey called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Dr. Chiglinsky and Mr. Wray, the Board unanimously approved the agenda as distributed.

Approval of April 23, 2018 Meeting Minutes

On motion by Mr. Wray and Mr. Myers, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the April 23, 2018 meeting as distributed.

Student Recognition – International Science Fair Awards

The Chairman stated two students, Logan Dunkenberger and Carly Smith, received awards at this year’s International Science and Engineering Fair in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Miss Smith could not be present; however, the Board commended Logan for her exemplary performance recognizing her with a plaque and standing ovation. Miss Dunkenberger was awarded *Best of Category* and *First Award in Microbiology* marking the first time in the history of the Roanoke Valley Governor’s School that a student received a “Best of Category” award. The Award signifies that Logan had the top high school microbiology project in the world this year. Her project “Novel Use of Phenolic Compounds for Epstein-Barr Virus Lytic Induction” involved a broad range of molecular biology and microbiology techniques. Logan, who is a rising senior and also attends Glenvar High School, completed her research project as part of Ms. Cindy Bohland’s Biotechnology course and conducted experimentation at Carilion Clinic under the mentorship of Kristin Knight.

The Chairman stated the Board would recognize Carly Smith at a later date noting Carly received a special award from the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh, in recognition of her project “The Effect of Natural Chitosan on the Removal of Azo Dyes from Water.” Carly used a compound found in the exoskeletons of shrimp and other crustaceans to remove Congo red, a hazardous dye, from water. Her project could have notable public health implications, particularly in developing countries. Carly is a rising senior and also attends Franklin County High School and completed her project in Mr. Steve Smith’s Applied Chemical Research elective course.

Mr. Levy added “the students at the Governor’s school really do incredible things,” and he thanked Miss Dunkenberger for attending the Board meeting and for her “fantastic” representation.

2017-18 Operating Budget Update and Financial Report

Mr. Levy presented an updated 2017-18 financial report noting the figures are almost exact to those in 2016-17. He stated there are still a few more purchases and payments that will be made from the current budget, and the Board would receive a final report regarding the 2017-18 budget at its October meeting. Mr. Levy stated he had purchased several needed items recently after delaying the purchases until such time as he felt more confident about remaining funds. The Chairman commended Mr. Levy for the discipline exercised in expending funds.

2018-19 Budget - Revised

Mr. Levy stated following the Governor’s recent approval of the State budget, the Governor’s School budget was adjusted and distributed. Mr. Wray asked how many slots were available; Mr. Levy stated the traditional student number is 269, tuition is based on 267 students, and there are two open slots. He noted that he had a district interested in one slot and cautioned that adding more permanent slots would require an in-depth discussion by the Board. Mr. Levy stated while revenue is not what he hoped it would be, he had planned for this contingency for some time.

Mr. Wray asked about the percentage increase for salaries and the impact of health insurance on costs; Dr. Bishop stated RCPS gave a two percent salary increase and this is reflected in the budget and noted that RCPS offers three health plans, one traditional plan and two that are mid-range and popular with the majority of staff because of the lower cost. Dr. Bishop stated the health plan year runs January through December and she would not be surprised if the actual cost is lower than what is budgeted impacting both the current year budget and the budget for 2018-19.

On motion by Mrs. Crooks and Mr. Cathey, the Board unanimously approved the updated 2018-19 Budget as presented.

Director’s Report

Mr. Levy updated the Board regarding student participation and performance at recent science fairs:

International Science and Engineering Fair—the Board again acknowledged the successful student performances by Logan Dunkenberger and Carly Smith.

National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium—Christine Flora and Gavin Oxley represented the Governor’s School.

Virginia Junior Academy of Sciences Symposium—Richard Qiu and Matthew Svec received a first place award in medicine and health; Reid Tenzer received a third place award in engineering; Kevin Sheng, Matthew Svec and Richard Qiu received special awards; and honorable mentions were received by Kevin Sheng, Kathryn Fink and Christine Flora, Madison Stein and Elysia Lin, and Giselle Pfaeffle. Mr. Levy noted a former Governor’s School student served as chairman of the event.

Mr. Levy stated there were 67 graduating seniors and the Class of 2018 was offered more than $4.8 million in scholarships, the largest amount in the School’s history. The 67 seniors will attend more than 20 different colleges, and a list of students and their chosen college was distributed.

Mr. Levy stated students are establishing connections with local businesses for next school year, and the partnership with Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute continues with at least ten students placed in their labs. Mr. Levey stated a new recognition program, RVGS H.E.R.O., was developed by students to demonstrate appreciation for the support students receive from partnership mentors. He reported the students selected Kristin Knight, formerly with Carilion Clinic, as this year’s winner with several other mentors recognized as honorees. Mr. Levy recognized Carilion for sponsoring the State Science Fair which was held in Roanoke this year and will be held in Roanoke again next year.

Mr. Levy requested Board members and superintendents let him know how he can assist with student recruitment in their division noting he is happy to meet with middle school students as well as any other groups to promote the Governor’s School.

Mr. Levy stated a beneficial practice that began last year continued this spring when he and Guidance Coordinator Kathy Sebolt met with incoming students and families to frame expectations and school culture for the coming year. He also noted the student-driven peer mentorship program, Students Orienting Students,” will continue with upper classmen working with new students. Mr. Levy stated he had met with students who are on probation and they are appreciative of the summer tutoring that is provided at no cost to the student.

Mr. Levy stated the Governor’s School enjoyed a very special and successful year with a number of significant accomplishments and with a highly skilled and cohesive team. He extended appreciation to Community Outreach Coordinator Regina Carson who led efforts to highlight the Governor’s School across the region including four front-page, above-the-fold stories in **The Roanoke Times** about the Governor’s School. Mr. Levy announced he would have to recruit a new outreach coordinator as Mrs. Carson has resigned.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Levy for his report and acknowledged this has been a very good year for the Governor’s School. On behalf of the Board, the Chairman expressed appreciation to Mr. Levy for his hard work and efforts to build such an excellent team.

School Safety

Dr. Bishop stated the Roanoke City School Board regards the Governor’s School building as its responsibility and it is expected that there will be some construction and changes around safety. She introduced Roanoke City Public Schools’ Chief of Security Chris Perkins who joined RCPS on May 1 and noted that Mr. Perkins would work with Mr. Levy on new safety protocols.

Mr. Perkins reviewed his three priorities—updates to school plants, technology, and procedures/practices through a layered approach to ensure school safety and security. He stated he would work with an architect to ensure the facility is as inviting and safe as it can be while also ensuring there is appropriate lighting and signage. The Superintendent noted that steps to address safety would be taken that would not be announced or discussed publicly. Mrs. Crooks asked how much money was allocated; Dr. Bishop stated the Roanoke City School Board had allocated $2.0 million and needs across the District are currently being prioritized. Dr. Chiglinsky stated he has served on this Board for a long time and believes that Roanoke City and its staff have always taken safety seriously and “this building and its students have always been taken care of.” He cautioned that there is a lot of unpredictability and we cannot lose sight of our goals. Dr. Bishop stated RCPS has used a national consultant since 2007 and has identified a need to improve technology.

The Chairman stated RCPS is delighted and fortunate to have Chris Perkins on the team as this has been a goal for some time.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is Monday, October 22, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

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Mark K. Cathey, Chairman

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Cindy H. Poulton, Clerk